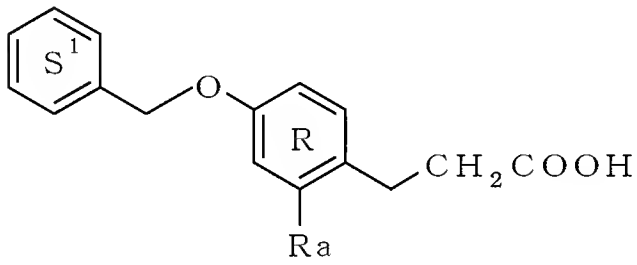
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. – 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A compound represented by the formula

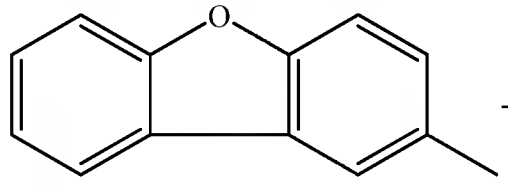


(I – 2)

wherein ring S^1 is a benzene ring having ~~substituent(s) having a benzene ring, wherein the substituent(s) having a benzene ring is~~ a substituent represented by the formula: R^{11}-E^2- , wherein ~~(~~

R^{11} is a phenyl group, an indanyl group or a naphthyl group, each optionally having substituent(s), and

E^2 is a bond or a spacer~~), and the spacer~~ represented by ~~E^2 is~~ -$(CH_2)m^1$-W^1-$(CH_2)m^2$- , wherein ~~(~~m^1 and m^2 are each an integer of 0 to 3, W^1 is -O-, -N(R^2)-, -S-, -CO- or -CO-N(R^3)-, and R^2 and R^3 are each a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group~~)~~, or R^{11} optionally forms, together with E^2 and ring S^1,



, and

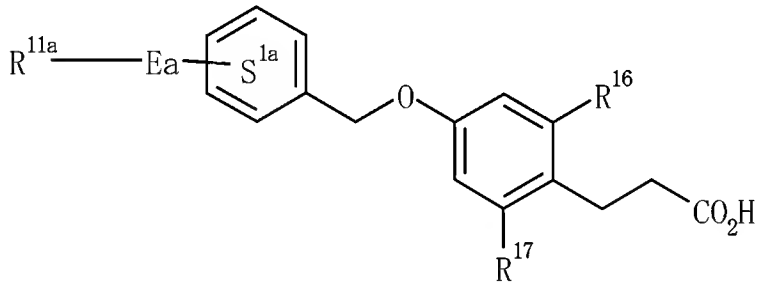
ring S^1 optionally further has substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkoxy group, a halogen atom and a C_{7-16} aralkyloxy group;

ring R is a phenylene group optionally further having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a halogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkoxy group and a hydroxy group; and

Ra is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group ~~or a substituent~~; or a salt thereof.

14. – 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A compound ~~of claim 13, which is~~ represented by the formula



(I-2A)

wherein R^{11a} is a phenyl group having 1 or 2 substituents, Ea is a bond, an oxygen atom or an optionally substituted methylene, ring S^{1a} is a benzene ring optionally further having substituent(s) selected from an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkoxy group and a halogen atom, and R^{16} and R^{17} are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group;

or a salt thereof.

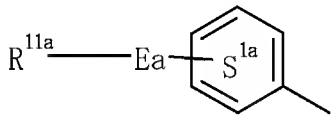
17. (Currently amended) The compound or salt of claim 16, wherein R^{11a} is a phenyl group having two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl

group, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkoxy group and a halogen atom; Ea is a bond, an oxygen atom or a methylene; and R^{16} and R^{17} are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom.

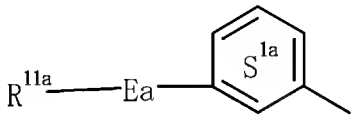
18. (Currently amended) The compound or salt of claim 17, wherein Ea is a bond.

19. (Currently amended) The compound or salt of claim 17, wherein R^{16} is a hydrogen atom, and R^{17} is a fluorine atom.

20. (Currently amended) The compound or salt of claim 16, wherein the partial structural formula



is



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21. (Currently amended) The compound or salt of claim 20, wherein R^{11a} is a phenyl group having two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkoxy group and a halogen atom; Ea is a bond; and ring S^{1a} is a benzene ring without additional substituent.

22. (Currently amended) The compound or salt of claim 13, wherein ~~the substituent(s) having a benzene ring is a substituent represented by the formula: R^{11}-E^2-(R^{11} is a phenyl group, an indanyl group or a naphthyl group, each optionally having substituent(s), and E^2 is a bond or a spacer),~~ ring S^1 ~~is~~ optionally further has ~~substituted by~~ a C_{1-6} alkyl group~~, and R^{11} optionally forms a ring together with E^2 and ring S^1~~.

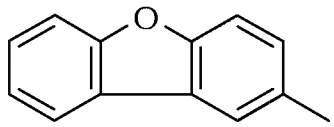
23. (Currently amended) The compound or salt of claim 13, wherein R^{11} is a phenyl group or an indanyl group, each optionally having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a nitro, a carboxy, an optionally halogenated C_{1-6}

alkyl, a hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkyl, a carboxy-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino-C_{1-6} alkyl, an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkoxy, a C_{6-14} aryl, a C_{6-14} aryloxy and a C_{7-16} aralkyloxy,

E^2 is a bond, -O-, -CH_2-O-, -CO-, -CONH-, -N(CH_3)CH_2-, -S-CH_2- or -C=C-,

ring S^1 ~~is~~ optionally further has ~~substituted by~~ a C_{1-6} alkyl group, or

~~the ring formed by~~ R^{11} optionally forms, together with E^2 and ring S^1, ~~is~~



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~~the substituent that~~ ring R is a phenylene group optionally ~~has is~~further having a C_{1-6} alkyl group, and

Ra is a hydrogen atom.

24. – 33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical agent comprising the compound or salt of claim 13 or 16~~, or a salt thereof~~.

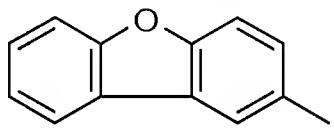
35. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A method of regulating a GPR40 receptor function, which comprises administering an effective amount of the compound or salt of claim 13 or 16 ~~or a salt thereof to~~ a mammal.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A screening method for a ligand, agonist or antagonist to GPR40, which comprises using GPR40 or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof, and the compound or salt of claim 13 ~~or a salt thereof~~or 16 .

38. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A kit for screening a ligand, agonist or antagonist to GPR40, which comprises GPR40 or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof, and the compound or salt of claim 13 or 16~~or a salt thereof~~ .

39. (Currently amended) The compound or salt of claim ~~22~~13, wherein R^{11} is a phenyl group or an indanyl group, each optionally having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a nitro, a carboxy, an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl, a hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkyl, a carboxy-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonylamino-C_{1-6} alkyl, an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkoxy, a C_{6-14} aryl, a C_{6-14} aryloxy and a C_{7-16} aralkyloxy;
E^2 is a bond, -O-, or $-CH_2-O$;
ring S^1 ~~is~~ optionally further ~~substituted by~~ has a C_{1-6} alkyl group;
~~the ring formed by~~ R^{11} optionally forms, together with E^2 and ring S^1, ~~is~~



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~~the substituent that~~ ring R is a phenylene group optionally ~~has~~ further having ~~is~~ a C_{1-6} alkyl group; and
Ra is a hydrogen atom.